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OLC 70-0784

4 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with CIA Subcommittee Staff Members
Woodruff, Braswell, and Preston

1. At our suggestion Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, Ed Braswell, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, visited the Agency this morning to receive a briefing on the status of our Indochina activities in the light of the Fulbright amendment to the Military Procurement Act.

2. Present from the Agency were:

The Director
Lawrence K. White, Ex/Dir-Compt
Lawrence Houston, General Counsel
John Clarke, OPPB
[redacted] C/FE
George Carver, SAVA
John M. Maury, Legislative Counsel

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3. The meeting was opened by the Director who explained that while he proposed to talk with the Chairmen of our Subcommittees as soon as they were available about his recent trip to Southeast Asia and the judgments we had reached with regard to our programs there in the light of the Fulbright amendment to the Military Procurement Act, he thought it would be useful if our congressional staff members were briefed on the details of our programs. The Director mentioned his meeting with Senator Stennis several weeks ago and the Senator's general attitude toward our programs in Indochina. He said it had been agreed at that time he would report back to Senator Stennis on his trip. He mentioned that [redacted] George Carver had accompanied him on the trip.

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4. The Director said there were three basic projects or programs involved: the use of Khmer Krom in Cambodia, our support of Vang Pao in Northern Laos, and interdiction activities in Southern Laos. He went on to give a brief summary of the need and importance of these projects pointing out that, if there had been any doubt about it before, there was no doubt in his mind at this time that the military situation had developed to the point where this had become an Indochina war rather than an isolated war in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

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5. The Director then turned the meeting over to [] who went into a detailed discussion of the situation in these areas, especially Laos. With regard to the statement that this had become a general Indochina problem, Ed Braswell commented that the Executive Branch did not treat it as one problem in their legislative initiatives or their appropriations requests. He observed a need for the Administration to take more positive steps to open up the situation and fund it on the basis of an Indochina war rather than on a South Vietnamese war if this reflected the Administration's intent. The following additional points or questions were covered:

Preston:

Did you have the North Vietnamese freighters under surveillance as they were shipping supplies to Sihanoukville?

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Generally yes, but of course ships are plying the international waters in substantial number.

Braswell:

Do you attribute what you describe as a generally favorable situation in Vietnam at present to the destruction of the supplies and equipment in the Cambodian sanctuaries?

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In large part yes, but we should also realize that the action in Cambodia has now tied down a number of North Vietnamese troops who would otherwise be committed to the war in Vietnam.

Braswell:

Do you really know where COSVN headquarters is?

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Yes, but you cannot think of it as an underground command post in our normal terminology.

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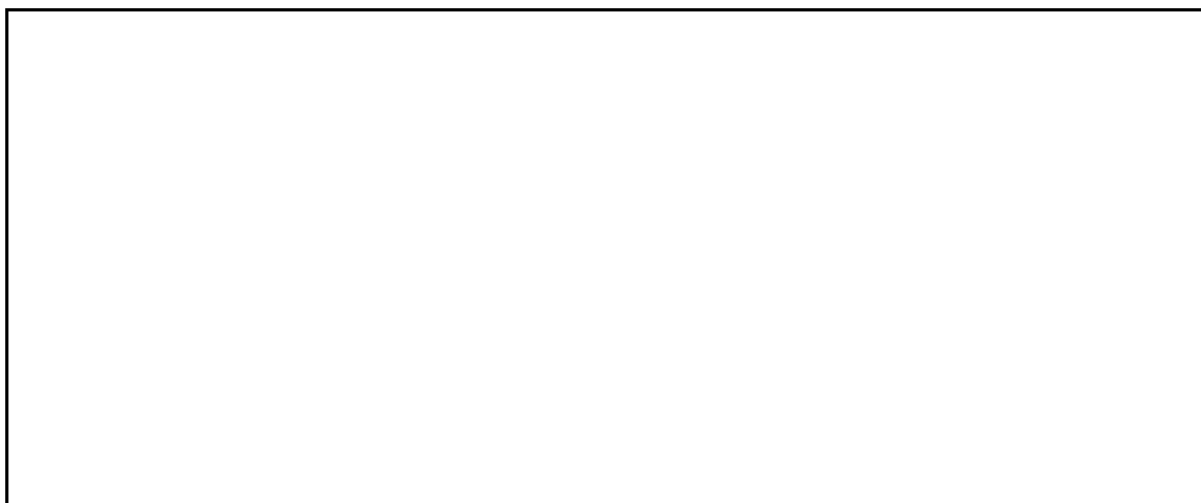
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Preston (to Braswell): Don't you think the words "related costs" and "on such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Defense may determine" grant sufficient latitude to cover these programs?

Braswell: That could be argued but that also could be used as an excuse for circumventing the Fulbright amendment entirely if you took it to its extreme.

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[Woodruff went on to say that if Senator Russell managed the Defense Appropriations bill on the floor he would merely tell the Senator what the facts were, knowing that Russell could cope with any floor questions. On the other hand, if Senator Ellender manages the bill he thinks Secretary Laird and the Director should talk to Senator Fulbright as the Director talked to this group this morning. Woodruff also said that in a session with Maurice Lanman he made it clear that the Fulbright amendment would be in the Defense Appropriations bill as reported out of the Senate committee. In addition, in an effort to shake up DOD, Woodruff told Lanman he was considering including in the Fulbright amendment language to make it clear that the amendment would also cover the transfer of funds under any authority.]

Braswell: DOD fought to have the Fulbright language omitted from the House bill. This would indicate that there is some significance to the Fulbright prohibitions from DOD's standpoint.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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but final was not sent out.